

Claims

- [001] 1. A navigation system comprising: a server (10) having a store (15) of a plurality of images (12), each image (12) representing a location and more than one image (12) being compilable to define a route between locations; the server (10) having means for receiving a request and means for sending a series of images (12) to a receiving means of a mobile device(14).
- [002] 2. A navigation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the store (15) of images includes more than one predefined route made up of a series of images (12), wherein a series of images defines a route to a destination location or a circular route.
- [003] 3. A navigation system as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the server (10) has a route finding mechanism (13) for compiling a series of images to define the route.
- [004] 4. A navigation system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the store (15) of the plurality of images is keyed on the location of an image (12) or one location of a series of images and a request specifies a location, wherein the server (10) includes a search mechanism (13) to search for a requested location.
- [005] 5. A navigation system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each image (12) is a photograph, diagram or picture representing a location.
- [006] 6. A navigation system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein series of images are provided in categories depending on a mode of transport of a user, the type of location represented in the images (12) and the distance between the locations represented in the images of the series.
- [007] 7. A navigation system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a series of images is sent (46) as a single packet to the mobile device (14).
- [008] 8. A navigation system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein a series of images is sent piecemeal (51, 53) in more than one portion to the mobile device (14) in response to a prompt from the mobile device (14) for the next portion of the series.
- [009] 9. A navigation system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the means for receiving the request recognises the type of device (14) making the request and sends the series of images in a form suitable for the type of device (14).
- [010] 10. A navigation system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the mobile device (14) is a mobile telephone enabled with MMS messaging and the series of images is sent as an MMS message to the mobile telephone.
- [011] 11. A navigation system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein

the mobile device (14) includes a camera and an image of a location can be sent (54) from the mobile device to the server (10).

- [012] 12. A navigation system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the server (10) includes means for receiving an image (12) and adding the image (12) to the store of images (15).
- [013] 13. A navigation system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the server (10) includes a voting mechanism in which a user can vote (52) on the usefulness of an image (12) and the server (10) adapts the store (15) of images in response to votes received.
- [014] 14. A method of supplying navigation information comprising: obtaining and storing a plurality of images (12), each image (12) representing a location and more than one image being compilable to define a route between locations; receiving a request for navigation information; searching through the plurality of images (12) to obtain a series of images in accordance with the request; sending a series of images to a mobile device (14).
- [015] 15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the method comprises storing more than one predefined route made up of a series of images, wherein a series of images defines a route to a destination location or a circular route.
- [016] 16. A method as claimed in claim 14 or claim 15, wherein the method comprises compiling a series of images to define the route in response to a request.
- [017] 17. A method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein the method comprises keying the plurality of images (12) on the location of an image or one location of a series of images and the step of searching is carried out by location.
- [018] 18. A method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 17, wherein the method comprises storing series of images in categories depending on a mode of transport of a user, the type of location represented in the images and the distance between the locations represented in the images (12).
- [019] 19. A method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 18, wherein the step of sending a series of images sends (46) the images as a single packet.
- [020] 20. A method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 18, wherein the step of sending a series of images sends the images piecemeal (51, 53) in more than one portion in response to received prompts for the next portion of the series of images.
- [021] 21. A method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 20, wherein the method comprises recognising the type of device (14) sending a request and sending a series of images in a format to suit the type of device (14).
- [022] 22. A method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 21, wherein the method comprises receiving a new image and adding the image to a series of images.

- [023] 23. A method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 22, comprises receiving and processing votes (52) on the usefulness of an image and amending the store (15) of images in accordance with the votes received.
- [024] 24. A computer program product stored on a computer readable storage medium, comprising computer readable program code means for performing the steps of: obtaining and storing a plurality of images (12), each image representing a location and more than one image (12) being compilable to define a route between locations; receiving a request for navigation information; searching through the plurality of images (12) to obtain a series of images in accordance with the request; sending a series of images to a mobile device (14).